

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 21-28 are pending. Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for the indication of allowed claims 26-28. Claims 1-9 stand rejected. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and requests a withdrawal of all rejections as set forth below.

Claim 1 has been amended to correct an informality. Specifically, the typographical error "bore connector" was corrected to "connector bore". Claim 3 is objected to because of an informality. Applicant has corrected claim 3 in accordance with the forgoing amendments, thereby obviating the objection.

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. In accordance with the foregoing amendments, Applicant has corrected claim 7 and 8 and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1-3, 5, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sluetz (U.S. Re. 31,990) in view of Doan (U.S. 7,031,774) and in view of Goldreyer (U.S. 4,365,639). Claim 4 stands rejected as being unpatentable over the combination of Sluetz, Doan and Goldreyer in view of Bischoff (U.S. 5,843,141), and claim 6 stands rejected as being unpatentable over the combination of Sluetz, Doan and Goldreyer in view of Peers-Trevarton (U.S. 4,469,104). In the previous response, Applicant articulated distinctions between the pending claims and the cited references, hereby incorporated herein by reference. The Examiner has maintained the rejection holding that it would be obvious to modify the Sluetz invention by providing a sliding electrode selection means as taught by Doan wherein at each position of the lead connector, a first contact and third contact are electrically connected to the pulse generator and a second contact is disconnected from the pulse generator.

Sluetz teaches changing the connection of lead electrodes to a stimulator to alter the functions of the electrodes at the distal end of the lead body. Sluetz does not teach or suggest selecting which electrodes at the distal end of the lead body are connected to the stimulator and which electrodes are not connected to the stimulator. Two different positions of the connector assembly in the female connector assembly allow

the electrode interconnections to be changed such that both of the two distal electrodes are always coupled to the stimulator, but in a manner that changes the electrode function. Sluetz provides no motivation or suggestion for positioning the lead connector such that one of the distal electrodes is not electrically coupled to the stimulator.

Doan on the other hand teaches selecting one of two different pairs of electrodes. A lead body has two pairs of stationary contacts on the lead body and a boot is slidably disposed on the lead body between first and second positions such that one of the pairs of stationary contacts is connected to terminal contacts on a proximal lead connector and the other pair is not connected to the terminal contacts. The stationary contacts are not on the proximal lead connector 24 but on the lead body, which must slide through the boot and out the other end as shown in Figures 4 and 5 in order to connect the proximal lead connector to a stimulation device. Proximal lead connectors 24 and 26 connect to a stimulation device with each terminal contact 70 and 72 and 74 and 76 of the lead connectors 24 and 26 electrically connected to the stimulation device.

In combining Sluetz and Doan, at most what results is an arrangement wherein the polarity of one pair of electrodes, selected using Doan's boot positioned along the lead body, can be changed by moving the proximal lead connector to a new position within the female connector bore as taught by Sluetz. However all of the proximal lead connector contacts within the female connector bore of the stimulator will be electrically connected to the stimulator, as taught by both Sluetz and Doan. As such the combination of Sluetz and Doan does not meet the claim language as a whole including "at each position of the lead connector within the connector bore ... a second one of the lead connector contacts that is inside the connector bore and the corresponding electrode joined to the second one of the lead connector contacts are electrically disconnected from the pulse generator." Goldreyer, Bischoff and Peers-Traverton do not remedy the deficiency of the combination of Sluetz and Doan relating to a second lead connector contact that is inside the connector bore of the pulse generator header and the corresponding electrode joined to the second lead connector contact electrically

disconnected from the pulse generator. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the present claims are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the instant rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

April 21, 2008  
Date

/Carol F. Barry/

Carol F. Barry  
Reg. No. 41,600  
(763) 526-0932  
Customer No. 27581